

## Remarks

Claims 16-34 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claim 31 and cancelled claim 35 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner has allowed claims 16-30.

The Examiner previously indicated that claims 9 recited allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 31 to include subject matter of claim 9 which was inadvertently not included in claim 31. Claim 31 now more accurately reflects the subject matter of claims 1 and 9 and 6, from which claim 9 depended. Therefore, claims 31-34 should be allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 4,063,069 to Peeri in view of U.S. patent 4,540,878 to Sato.

Claims 31-34 recite allowable subject matter as described above. Claim 35 is no longer pending. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection based upon the cited references.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant respectfully urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/10/08

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Franklin", written over a horizontal line.

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